

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1, 56, 141-149, 152-166, and 169-171 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 56, 141, 145-148, 152-156, 161, 162, 166, 169, 170, and 171 are independent claims. Claims 1 and 56 are sought to be amended herein. Claims 65-139 were previously canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Claims 2-55, 57-64, 140, 150, 151, 167, and 168 are canceled herein without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all outstanding rejections.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-9, 14-16, 22-26, 37, 43-53, 55, 57-59, 63, 64, 140,150, 151, 167, and 168 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over DeMarcken *et al.*, (WO 00/46715) in view of one or more of:

Hussey (U.S. Patent No. 5,826,269);

Tock (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0064570);

Brezin *et al.* (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0178161);

Sedlar (U.S. Patent No. 6,922,708);

Dillon (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0206554);

Theriault *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,049,821);

Jafri et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,832,454); and

Ahlstrom et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,862,357).

Applicants disagree that the combinations of references applied by the Examiner teach or suggest the features recited in the rejected claims. However, to expedite this application, claims 2-9, 14-16, 22-26, 37, 43-53, 55, 57-59, 63, 64, 140,150, 151, 167, and 168 are canceled herein without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. The rejections of claims 2-9, 14-16, 22-26, 37, 43-53, 55, 57-59, 63, 64, 140,150, 151, 167, and 168 are thus rendered moot. Withdrawal of the rejections of claims 2-9, 14-16, 22-26, 37, 43-53, 55, 57-59, 63, 64, 140,150, 151, 167, and 168 is requested.

Claim 1 is addressed below.

Objections to the Claims

In paragraph 8 of the Office Action, claims 10-13, 17-21, 27-36, 38-42, 54, 56, and 60-62, were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Claims 10-13, 17-21, 27-36, 38-42, 54, and 60-62 are cancelled herein without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Withdrawal of the objection of claims 10-13, 17-21, 27-36, 38-42, 54, and 60-62 is requested.

Claim 27 previously depended from claim 1, through claim 26. Claim 1 is amended herein to recite features of claims 26 and 27.

Claim 56 previously depended from claim 1, through claims 55 and 3. Claim 56 is amended herein to recite features of claims 1, 3, and 55, in independent form.

Amended claims 1 and 56 are thus allowable. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 and the objection to claim 56 are requested.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding objections and rejections.

Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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